

subprime loans that were meant to fail so that a savvy investor could most profitably short a pool of them.

Some subprime mortgage borrowers who are underwater, owing more on their homes than they are worth, are walking away, leaving their homes and the payments they have already made to the banks.

These days the North Fork real estate sales market isn't roaring anymore, but many of those former homeowners are keeping the rental market purring.

JANICE KELLER
Mattituck, N.Y.,
April 17, 2010

To the Editor:

Re "In a Rush to Judge Goldman?" (column, April 17):

In questioning a rush to judgment against Goldman Sachs, William D. Cohan seemingly tries to turn the table by asking: if "Goldman had lost billions instead of making billions, would the S.E.C. have filed a lawsuit against Abacus's investors?"

This ignores the fundamental issue in this case: fraud is fraud, whether the perpetrator profits from his misdeeds or not. The Securities and Exchange Commission is alleging that Goldman omitted material information from a prospectus that it was required by law to disclose so that the investors could make an informed decision about whether to buy the securities being offered.

Moreover, if Goldman did lose money—whether from the actual trades or the recent drop in share price—and the S.E.C. proved that Goldman had committed fraud, then Goldman's shareholders have been hurt by this activity and would have a right to sue to recoup their losses from those responsible.

JAMES O. CHAMBERLAIN
Forest Hills, Queens,
April 17, 2010

To the Editor:

Re "So Many Ways to Almost Say 'I'm Sorry'" (Week in Review, April 18):

It's the "say you're sorry" season for highly compensated bankers, but the apologies ring hollow. An apology without a commitment to make amends by way of financial reparations is similar to the "thank you" note that arrives six months after the gift has been received.

It's better than nothing, but not by much.

JOAN EVANGELISTI
Racine, Wis., April 19, 2010

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

RECOGNIZING "OUR KIDS OF MIAMI-DADE AND MONROE"

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to recognize the vital work of an important south Florida organization called "Our Kids of Miami-Dade and Monroe."

Since the year 2005, "Our Kids" has worked to ensure that at-risk, abused, abandoned and neglected children are afforded the opportunity to grow up in safe, permanent families.

As a grandmother and a former educator, I recognize the great oppor-

tunity that "Our Kids" has to fully support at-risk children.

Under the leadership of CEO Frances Allegra and Board Chairman Carlos de la Cruz, Jr., "Our Kids" has risen to the challenge and given direction to our local child protection system. Since 2005, "Our Kids" has created over 1,600 families through child-focused, family-centered adoptions. It has created an environment of seamless, cohesive, and comprehensive service that has led to a 15 percent increase in children who are adopted within 24 months of entering foster care. That means that today there are 36 percent fewer children in foster care in Miami and in the Florida Keys. This is a remarkable achievement in such a short time frame, and I applaud the progress.

There are too many children left to grow up without a strong family support system upon which they can rely. And sadly, it is more often than not those children who are most in need who are left to fend for themselves. Children who have experienced abuse and neglect are exceptionally vulnerable.

The safety and the development of our children must be our highest priority. We must ensure that all children have the chance, through guidance and support, to confidently build their lives, their families, their relationships. By matching kids to permanent, loving homes, or with caring foster parents, "Our Kids" is working to accomplish this worthy goal. "Our Kids" makes our community stronger and more supportive each and every day.

The men and women of "Our Kids" are selfless in their efforts to improve the lives of all of our children in South Florida. Every child ought to have a loving home, and it is our responsibility as a community and a Nation, to guarantee that no child is left alone.

On behalf of parents everywhere, Mr. Speaker, I again thank "Our Kids of Miami-Dade and Monroe" and look forward to all of their future accomplishments on behalf of all of our children.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. POSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POSEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE ONGOING PLIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF BURMA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHR-ABACHER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to draw attention to the ongoing plight of the people of Burma, now referred to as Myanmar. Shortly after the Second World War, Burma was granted its independence from Great Britain. With democratic institutions in place, rich natural resources and an

educated population, it was expected that Burma would become a wealthy, stable and free country. Sadly, that country, with so much potential, has been dominated by corrupt tyrants. And despite its vast natural wealth, its people suffer in abject poverty.

Even worse, the people of Burma are actually losing their country to a foreign power. A Chinese power grab is not only depleting and stealing Burma's natural resources, but slowly and surely, Burma is being turned into a subservient province of Beijing. China is literally stealing Burma from its own people, and it is accomplishing this monumental crime with the assistance of Burmese Government officials whose lust for power is greater than any loyalty to their own national homeland.

The patriots and freedom-loving people of Burma will either join against tyranny and foreign domination, or their country will be lost for generations to come. If Burma is to be saved, there needs to be reconciliation between the Burmans and those ethnic peoples who make up half of that country's population.

In a decades-old insurgency, the ethnic fighters have been the primary source of opposition to Burma's iron-fisted dictatorship. Urban democratic leaders like Aung San Suu Kyi and other patriotic Burmans have been beaten down and repressed and imprisoned. These two elements must come together, the Burmans and the ethnic groups that are fighting the Burmese dictatorship. They must come together as one under a banner promising respect for the rights and traditions of various people, those various people who make up the wonderfully diverse nation of Burma.

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An opposition coalition must be joined also by patriots in the military, professional soldiers who seek to remake their army into a respected defender of the nation, not a tool of corruption and foreign domination. It is time for leaders in the army to join the people and build a new, prosperous and free and, yes, independent Burma.

In the blink of an eye, Burma—Myanmar—can reclaim its sovereignty and can be put on the path to national reconciliation, democracy, and, yes, prosperity. The military in a new Burma, as our professional armies throughout the democratic nations of the world, will be a respected institution, not a tool of foreign domination, repression, and corruption.

The time has come to choose. Let the Burmese, the ethnic people of Burma, the business and military leaders who long for a legitimate and honest government, and all of the other patriots there, let them have the courage to step forward and join together and retake their country. The time is now.

This is a great moment of opportunity. People of Burma, do not let this moment pass by. The world will